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SHORT COMMUNICATION

A Recent Record of *Oedemera virescens* (L.) (Coleoptera: Oedemeridae) in Gloucestershire.—This extremely scarce beetle is listed in the *Review of the Scarce and Threatened Coleoptera of Britain* (Hyman & Parsons, 1992) as RDB2, vulnerable, and it would appear that most recent records come from north-east Yorkshire. It has, however, been recently collected from three sites in south-west Scotland (Morris, 1997). I collected this species in the Forest of Dean, where it had previously been recorded, near Staunton (SO563121) on 26.v.90. I recently re-examined the specimen, which is deposited in my personal collection, comparing it with specimens in the collections of the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, and by referring to the underside characters figured by Vázquez (1993). Although certain that it was indeed a female *Oedemera virescens*, I asked Dr Brian Levey for a second opinion, and he kindly confirmed my identification. The ecology of the species is given as “broad-leaved woodland, pasture woodland and wood edges. Larval biology unknown but probably associated with dead wood” (Hyman & Parsons, 1992). Vázquez however, gives the following as possible larval foodplants: *Senecio jacobaea*, *Aconitum napellus*, *Typha*, *Helianthus tuberosus* and *Eupatorium*, the larvae being found in the stems. My specimen was caught by sweeping along a ride in mixed woodland, where certainly the dominant plant was *Senecio* sp, with *Eupatorium* and *Hypericum* to a lesser extent. This perhaps lends some weight to the assertion of Vázquez that larvae are found in plant stems and not in dead wood. It would appear that this species has a long history in the Forest of Dean and no doubt has occurred there in low numbers since it was first recorded by E. W. Morse in 1905 and again in 1913 (records in Atty, 1983). I have revisited the site on a number of occasions since 1990, but have not yet found it again.—P. M. PAVETT. Dept. of Biodiversity and Systematic Biology, National Museums and Galleries of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP.

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